

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 9-10 are amended. Also, the specification is amended to correct various minor informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants greatly appreciate that the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 5, and 10 contain allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that all claims 1-11 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to claim 3 based on an informality. Claim 3 is amended to replace "processing" with "process" so as to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadjimohammadi (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,024). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

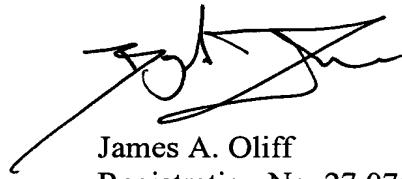
Specifically, claims 1, 4, and 9 are amended to incorporate the allowable feature "the bus interface including dedicated bus interfaces that each correspond to a certain one of the semiconductor storage media" of allowable claims 2, 5, and 10, respectively.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, and 9 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-3, 5-8, and 10-11 depend from claims 1, 4, and 9, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103(a) rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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